

PIC Exam

Frequently Asked Questions

Q.) I have been a pharmacist in NH for 15 years and have served as Pharmacist-In-Charge (PIC) for the past 10 years. Why am I being required to take a test now?

A.) Based on discipline that the Board has issued over the last couple years, it would appear that some pharmacists have either not kept up to date on pharmacy law/rule changes or in some cases do not know the pharmacy laws/rules. The Board felt that in some cases, if the pharmacist had been familiar with laws and rules they would not have put themselves in a position that could possibly lead to discipline against their license.

Q.) What gives the Board the authority to implement a PIC Exam?

A.) Under NH RSA 318:38 (I) the Board is responsible for ensuring the person designated as Pharmacist-In-Charge is capable of operating a safe pharmacy in compliance with State and Federal laws and rules. The PIC Exam is one way the Board can ensure that it is meeting its legal responsibility of protecting the public.

Q.) What will be on the exam?

A.) The exam will cover NH Pharmacy Laws and Rules with the primary focus on Pharmacist-In-Charge (PIC) Responsibilities and the practice of pharmacy.

Q.) Will the exam take the pharmacy practice setting into consideration?

A.) Yes, pharmacists that work in a Hospital, Home Infusion or Sterile Compounding Pharmacy will be expected to have a full understanding of USP 797. Retail pharmacists that do not perform sterile compounding should still be familiar with the USP compounding chapters and the new compounding rules in Chapter Ph 400.

Q.) What can you tell me about the make-up of the exam?

A.) The exam will consist of 25 questions. The questions will be a mixture of multiple choice and True or False questions?

Q.) What is the passing score?

A.) The minimum passing score for the PIC Exam is 80% (see Ph 704.11(a)(2)).

Q.) What happens if I fail? Can I retake the exam?

A.) If you fail, you may retake the exam after 7 days. You may take the exam up to three times. If you do not pass on the third attempt you will need to ask the Board for permission to take the exam again.

Q.) How soon will I know the results of the exam?

A.) You will be notified two business days after taking the exam. Notification will be done through email. Please make sure you provide a valid email address on the exam.

Q.) When and where can I take the exam?

A.) The exam will be available **by appointment** at the Board office in Concord, 121 South Fruit Street. To schedule an appointment please contact Margaret Clifford at margaret.clifford@nh.gov. The Board's Compliance Unit is also working with employers to schedule exam dates for groups of pharmacists around the state. Your employer should notify you if they have made arraignments for you to take the exam in a location other than the Board office.

Q.) Is there a deadline for taking the exam?

A.) All current PIC's are required to successfully complete the exam prior to December 31st.

Q.) Do I have to be a PIC in order to take the exam?

A.) No, you do not have to be a PIC to take the exam but you do have to be eligible to be a PIC to sit for the exam. Therefore, if you are not already a PIC you cannot take the PIC exam if you graduated pharmacy school less than 2 years ago.

Q.) Is the exam available now?

A.) The exam will be available beginning Monday October 5, 2015.